



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

ROADS PROGRAMME

Year ending 31st of December 2024






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01 Document Control & Approval List

Document Control

Revision	Status	Compiled by S.E	Approved by D.O.S	Date
1	Draft			18/03/2024
2	Final			20/03/2024

25th March 2024

To: Each Member of Offaly County Council

Re: PROPOSED ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME FOR 2024

Dear Councillor,

Please find attached herewith the **Road Works Programme** for the year 2024. The programme is funded through three National Funding bodies, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) the Department of Transport (DoT) and the National Transport Authority (NTA), along with funding allocated by Offaly County Council in the 2024 adopted budget.

The initial grant allocations for 2024 from TII, DoT and the NTA are set out below with the figures for 2023 shown alongside for comparison purposes.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland & Department of Transport, Road Grants

Initial Grant Allocations	2023 (€)	2024 (€)
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)		
National Primary		
Motorway MMaRC Lighting	9,117	9,117
National Secondary Improvement		
Major Scheme N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link	0	0
Minor Works N62 Crancreagh (Cloghan to Derrinlough)	200,000	10,000
Pavement Scheme on the N62/N52	4,000,000	1,200,000
Pavement Scheme HD28 Pavement Renewals	TBC (Q2/Q3)	TBC (Q2/Q3)
HD15 & HD17 Minor Works N52, N62 & N80	0	110,000
HD15 & HD17 Minor Works Fencing Retrofit (N52/N62/N80)	0	10,000
Local Authority Support (Improvement)	275,000	275,000
National Secondary Maintenance		
Ordinary Maintenance	129,194	129,194

Route Lighting	75,901	75,901
Winter Maintenance	170,000	137,925
Local Authority Support (Maintenance)	11,800	11,800
Local Authority Support (Winter Maintenance)	10,000	10,000
Greenways	3,880,000	3,940,000
TII Total	€8,761,012	€5,918,937
Department of Transport		
Regional & Local Roads Grants		
Restoration Improvement	6,542,000	6,651,500
Restoration Maintenance	955,000	909,500
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	750,500	796,000
Discretionary Grant	1,783,500	1,750,500
Bridge Rehabilitation	376,500	373,250
Safety Improvement Works	300,000	325,000
Specific Improvement Grants	2,100,000	2,145,000
Speed Limits	54,000	27,400
Cycle Signs	7,150	0
Former National Roads	420,000	540,000
Strategic Regional and Local Roads	50,000	100,000
Climate Adaptation	388,650	368,500
Training Grant	47,500	47,500
Community Involvement Scheme	301,500	301,500
Pilot Scheme testing on roads over peat	1,000,000	1,000,000
PSCI Survey Support	16,000	16,000
Drainage Works	447,000	402,500
DOT Total	€15,539,300	€15,754,150
National Transport Authority		
Active Travel		
Transport / Mobility Plans: Tullamore	134,448	71,500
Tullamore Cycle Network Phase 1	358,231	253,600
Footpath Improvements Package A: Birr & Crinkill	100,563	32,850
Footpath Improvements Package B: Clara	298,882	
Edenderry - Hare's Lane	Works complete	


Footpath Improvements Design Package: Banagher & Cloghan	38,000	250,000
Tullamore - Spollenstown Road	191,104	200,000
Countywide Pedestrian Crossings	26,212	
Portarlington Active Travel Scheme	Works complete	
Safe to Schools Programme - Support Infrastructure: Frederick Street, Clara	9,382	
Low Cost Urban Junction (tightening) Schemes: Edenderry & Birr	110,449	96,000
Light Segregation Cycling Scheme: Edenderry	Works complete	
Tullamore Urban Greenway Project	50,000	200,000
EDENDERRY - R402-1 Junction Upgrade	183,055	68,500
TULLAMORE - Collins Lane Junction - Advance Scheme	99,473	
BIRR - Riverside Walk Upgrade/Link	147,500	61,500
RHODE - Pedestrian Crossings & Footpath	185,000	140,000
MUCKLAGH - Brocca Rd - Junction/Path	191,083	6,500
SHINRONE - Cloughjordan Road	140,000	207,500
BALLYCUMBER - Upgrade Footpath Links	125,000	10,500
Offaly County Council Active Travel Office - Staff Costs	271,000	271,000
Edenderry - SRTS (R1) Design & Cycle Links	75,000	50,000
Edenderry Active Travel elements	50,000	350,000
Arden View Tullamore Active Travel elements	75,000	
Banagher SRTS (R1) Design Links	75,000	5,000
Kilcormac Village, Kinnity Road Active Travel elements	75,000	175,000
Cox's Bridge, R443-2 Clara Rd, Tullamore		275,000
Edenderry Harbour and Grand Canal Link		275,000
NTA Active Travel Total	€3,009,382	€3,000,000
Bus Stops		500,000
NTA Total	€3,009,382	€3,500,000

Funding Partner	2023 Initial Allocation	2024 Initial Allocation
Transport Infrastructure Ireland - National Roads allocation together with Greenways allocation	€8,761,012	€5,918,937
Department of Transport	€15,539,300	€15,754,150
National Transport Authority (incl Bus Stops)	€3,009,382	€3,500,000
Offaly County Council (Own Resources Local Roads)	€2,246,269	€2,396,269
Total	€29,555,963	€27,569,356

Recommendation:

The Roads Work Programme, summarised below, has an initial budget of **€27,569,356** and it is recommended that the 2024 Roads Programme is adopted and that works commence forthwith.

Yours faithfully,



Ms. Anna Marie Delaney,
Chief Executive.

02 Roads Programme Funding Source

As in previous years, transfers from the Restoration Improvement Grant to the Discretionary Grant is not allowable as notified in Circular RW1/2018.

Own Resources Funding: Direct Funding from Offaly County Council plays a vital role in delivering the Annual Roads Programme and 2024 will be no exception. The Department of Transport, (DoT) has again advised Local Authorities under Department of Transport Circular RW 02/2024 and via section 2.2 of the newly updated 'Memorandum on Regional and Local Roads 2024' of the following requirement;

2.2 Own Resources Expenditure:

State grants for road works on regional and local roads are provided on the basis that they supplement **realistic contributions** from local authority own resources. Under no circumstances should the Exchequer support be used as a reason to reduce local authorities own resources expended on Regional and Local roads. Where this occurs, it will be considered in the determination of the Department's allocations in subsequent years.

Offaly County Council has allocated **€2,396,269** which equates to a 6.3% increase from 2023's allocation of **€2,246,269**. The Winter Service allocation from our Own Resources will increase by €90,000 in 2024 from an allocation of €100,000 in 2023. This increase is required to deliver the existing service and is underpinned by increased maintenance and operating costs.

Additional to the Local Road supports from our Own Resources, Offaly County Council have also allocated **€1,049,500** for Public Lighting and a further **€100,000** for the PLEEP project from our Own Resources.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII): Our TII allocation for 2024 is reduced from the **€8,761,012** received in 2023 to **€5,918,937**. This reduction is due to a decrease under our Protection and Renewal funding for pavement overlays and strengthening.

The TII have further strengthened their funding commitment to Offaly County Council with an allocation of €2,400,000 for the completion of the mainline section of the Grand Canal Greenway. Works are scheduled for completion on this project in April 2024. There is a further commitment towards the construction of the Ballycommon trailhead project, which once completed will be an exemplar scheme for the trailhead facilities required to maximise the benefits of the completed Greenway.

The TII allocation includes **€1,200,000** for pavement improvement works on the N62 at Doon which will be delivered in 2024.

The responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the Motorway network nationally is the responsibility of the TII, who in turn has contracted out this work to private contractors. Approximately 15km of the M6 and M7 pass through County Offaly. There is an allocation of **€9,117** from TII for Motorway lighting maintenance.

Unfortunately, TII have not allocated any funding for the N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link in 2023 to date. The Option Selection Report is now finalised, and the Roads Department remain committed to securing funding to progress this scheme in the near future.

Department of Transport: Under the Regional and Local Road Grant Allocation from the Department of Transport, Offaly County Council received a total Grant allocation of **€15,754,150** which represents a modest increase from the **€15,539,300** as received in 2023. The majority of this allocation is targeted towards the maintenance and upkeep of the existing road network within the County under the Restoration Improvement, Restoration Maintenance and Discretionary Maintenance Grant allocations as shown within the Appendices.

We have also received a further commitment from the Department of Transport towards the construction of strategically important new sections of roadway under the Specific Improvement funding program. We have received funding to complete the outstanding works on Edenderry Inner Relief Road which is due for completion in May 2024 and for the tendering of works associated with the Birr North Distributor Road which we hope to issue in June 2024 subject to Department of Transport approvals. We have also received an allocation to commence Birr South Eastern Distributor Road and to progress the road widening scheme at Monasterauris in Edenderry.

The National Transport Authority (NTA): Offaly County Council have been allocated €3million, for 2024, under the NTA Active Travel Investment Programme, and a further €500,000 under a NTA Bus Stop Enhancement Programme. Offaly County Council are liaising with the various departments within the NTA and the TFI Local Link Manager of Laois/Offaly, to aid in upgrading and improvement of the Bus Stop infrastructure (including shelters) and services in the county.

It is important to recognise that schemes approved for Offaly County Council are all on a predominantly 18-24 month delivery programme. There are some schemes with a potentially broader delivery timeline and as such allocations as prescribed in the 2024 program may be subject to change as the works program delivery commences for the 2024 program. All of these delivery timelines are subject to a myriad of dependencies that can potentially extend the scheme delivery timeline.

There are 20 No. schemes included under the Active Travel Investment Programme for the 2024 programme for Offaly. 17 No. Schemes are underway since 2021/2022/2023 with 3 No. new schemes due to commence in 2023.

Community Involvement Scheme: Offaly County Council received an allocation of €**301,500** for 2024, which is equal to the allocation under the CIS funding program received in 2023.

Local Improvement Scheme: Offaly County Council have yet to received LIS funding for 2024.

CLÁR 2023: Offaly County Council have received an allocation of **€200,698** under the CLÁR funding for 2024 from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP): Kilkenny County Council acting as Lead Authority on behalf of the (9) Counties in this Region have been managing the PLEEP project. It is now envisaged that works will commence in Offaly in early Q3 of 2024 with a programmed delivery timetable of approximately 2 months. The installation works associated with the PLEEP project are scheduled for completion by the early part of Q4 2024.

Categories of Road Maintenance

Restoration Improvement (RI): This allocation is targeted towards the strengthening programme and is hugely important in terms of maintaining the existing Road network. It caters for pavement overlay works and for complete road rehabilitation works as well as for drainage works where required.

Restoration Maintenance (RM): The purpose of the Restoration Maintenance grant is to protect the structural integrity of the road by way of surface dressing (and necessary basic preparatory works) through the sealing of the road surface to protect the road pavement layers from the adverse effects of the ingress of water and to maintain Skid Resistance on our Road Network. A basic Surface Dressing is defined as the uniform application of a bituminous binder sprayed onto a road surface followed by a layer of single sized chippings. Periodic maintenance aims to protect the structural integrity of the Regional and Local road network and is generally addressed using Surface Dressing.

Discretionary Grant (DG): Local Authorities can assign the Discretionary Grant to a variety of maintenance and repair works on roads and footways and it can also be used for winter maintenance purposes. Routine maintenance would typically include activities such as roadside verge clearing, grass cutting, cleaning of silted

ditches and culverts, patching, pothole repair and repair of edge defects. Urgent Maintenance is undertaken for repairs that cannot be foreseen but require immediate attention, such as collapsed culverts or landslides that block a road. Routine and Urgent Maintenance can be charged to the Discretionary Grant programme.

The amounts that each Local Authority receives from the Department of Transport under these three grant programmes Restoration Maintenance (RM), Restoration Improvement (RI) and Discretionary Grant (DG) are based principally on road lengths.

The detailed programmes to be completed under the previously mentioned funding categories in each Municipal District are included in Appendix C.

03 Key Actions for 2024

The Roads Department of Offaly County Council aim to build upon the many positive outcomes from 2023. Offaly County Council will continue to engage with the TII, DOT and NTA to secure significant investment for our National, Regional and Local Roads including urban walking and cycling improvements and rural linkages. We also continue to identify additional funding opportunities and strive to place Offaly County Council as a leader with regards to reform and improvements within the Roads delivery program.

- Continue to prioritise and promote the N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link design in collaboration with the TII, Westmeath National Design office and Consulting Engineers;
- Deliver Road strengthening works on the N62 under the Pavement Protection and Renewal program as funded by the TII;
- Complete Stage 2 of the Edenderry Town Inner Relief Road specific road improvement scheme;
- Progress the Birr Distributor Road R439 Banagher Road to N52 Tullamore Road specific road improvement scheme to tender and construction in 2024 subject to funding approvals;
- Appoint Technical Consultancy Services for the Birr South Eastern Distributor Road;
- Progress the Monasterauris Specific Improvement scheme through the Part 8 process;
- Complete the mainline of the Grand Canal Cycling Route by Q1 2024 and commence the delivery of the associated links from our Towns and Villages starting with Edenderry Harbour to the Greenway;
- Operate and maintain the machinery yard fleet in a safe and efficient manner. Continue with App based vehicle inspections sheets. Build on the introduction of 5 new Zero Emission Vehicles into the fleet in 2023 and expand the use of HVO across all fleet vehicles by the end of 2024.
- Complete the National, Regional and Local Roads Improvement Programme in accordance with the 2024 Grant Allocations and apply for and deliver

capital maintenance schemes on National Roads;

- Complete the 2024 identified Road Safety Improvement Schemes on Regional and Local Roads and work with TII to progress Roads Safety Schemes on National Roads;
- Promote Road Safety awareness in association with the Road Safety Authority, the Gardaí and TII (Offaly County Council Road Safety Working Group); progress Road Safety Initiatives in Offaly;
- Deliver Offaly County Councils Winter Service Plan response and Severe Weather response in accordance with the 2023 – 2024 Winter Maintenance & Severe Weather Plans;
- Procure and assign a Third Velocity Patcher for Road Maintenance so as to ensure each Municipal District has its own dedicated machine;
- Continue our programme of upgrading Public Lighting to LED in the interest of energy efficiency and ongoing maintenance;
- Manage the PLEEP Project in Offaly which is due for delivery in 2024;
- Continue our programme of upgrading Pedestrian Crossings;
- Continue our bridge rehabilitation programme, develop plans and seek funding for further schemes;
- Progress the Community Involvement Scheme, Local Improvement Scheme and CLAR funded by DTTAS and DRCD;
- Undertake Health & Safety (work practices) Schedule of Inspections;
- Continue to engage with stakeholders and report on Planning Applications & Strategic Infrastructure;
- Continue to issue Roads & Services in charge letters and Abnormal Load Permits;
- Strengthen and build on the engagement from 2023 with NTA and Local Link to progress a new bus stop program for County Offaly;
- Deliver on the agreed NTA funded Active Travel Program for 2024;
- Procure and managed the Technical Consultancy Services for the Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for Laois/Offaly/Westmeath/Roscommon and Longford;
- Deliver the Ballycommon Trailhead project which includes for 53 parking spaces, EV charging, Public Lighting and upgrades to the public road infrastructure;
- Submit 2 new Specific Improvement schemes for our Clara and Edenderry for Department approval;

04 Road Safety/Health and Safety

2024

Road Safety 2024

The Roads Department have completed the final Draft of Offaly County Councils Road Safety Plan 2023-2030. The report was issued to all working group stakeholder members and has been noted at the February Council meeting.

Health and Safety 2024

When undertaking the Roads Programme for 2024 the key objectives are to ensure that the work is carried out in a safe manner for all stakeholders including the staff involved and the public within the vicinity of the works.

In order to achieve this objective all works must be;

- Safely planned in advance.
- Works undertaken by trained, competent staff and contractors.
- Roles such as Project Supervisor Design Stage (PSDP) and Project Supervisor at Construction Stage (PSCS) must be assigned and appointed.
- All works must be carried out in compliance with current Health and Safety Regulations and underpinned by a Site Specific Safety Management Plan and associated documents, including Health and Safety Plans, Safe Systems of Work, Risk Assessments and Traffic Management Plans.
- The communications of these documents are critical to ensuring that work practices are carried out safely on each site.

These above core tasks ensure Offaly County Council continues to manage the Roads Programme in a safe manner and these key principles will be required to maintain and ensure a successful outcome in 2024.

A Health and Safety review with the management team has been scheduled for Q3 of 2024 which will be used to set out the targets and areas for improvements in 2024.

Unfortunately the Health And Safety Authority records outline that 43 people lost their lives in work place accidents in 2023 compared to 28 people in 2022, it is devastating for all the deceased families and colleagues. Each of these fatalities along with many more serious incidents have been investigated by the H.S.A.

The initial breakdowns of these accidents indicate the following:

- 16 fatalities occurred in the **farming industry** (12 in 2022).
- 11 occurred in the **construction industry** (7 in 2022)

Primary Cause of fatalities

- 13 died as a result of **interaction with vehicle.** (7 in 2022)
- 11 died as a result of **fall from a height.** (9 in 2022)
- Across all industries **people aged 55 and over, accounted for 22 fatalities last year. (10 in 2022)**

These statistics – outline the reasons we must ensure we continue to focus and follow the safety management system when completing our tasks for 2024.

The Department of Transport has allocated €47,500 under the Training Grant in order to strengthen and promote Health and Safety approach towards the Roads Programme in 2024.

05 Report on 2023

In 2023 the Roads Department of Offaly County Council have strengthened and expanded our service delivery with the addition of the Taking in Charge Brief and the Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. There has been and will continue to be targeted investment towards our existing infrastructure in order to maintain, upgrade and expand our existing road networks in order to facilitate growth across our entire County. There has also been an emphasis placed on identifying additional funding avenues throughout the year in order to maximise the benefits to County Offaly. The approach and ethos applied in 2023 will be both replicated and strengthened in 2024 in order to maximise any funding potential.

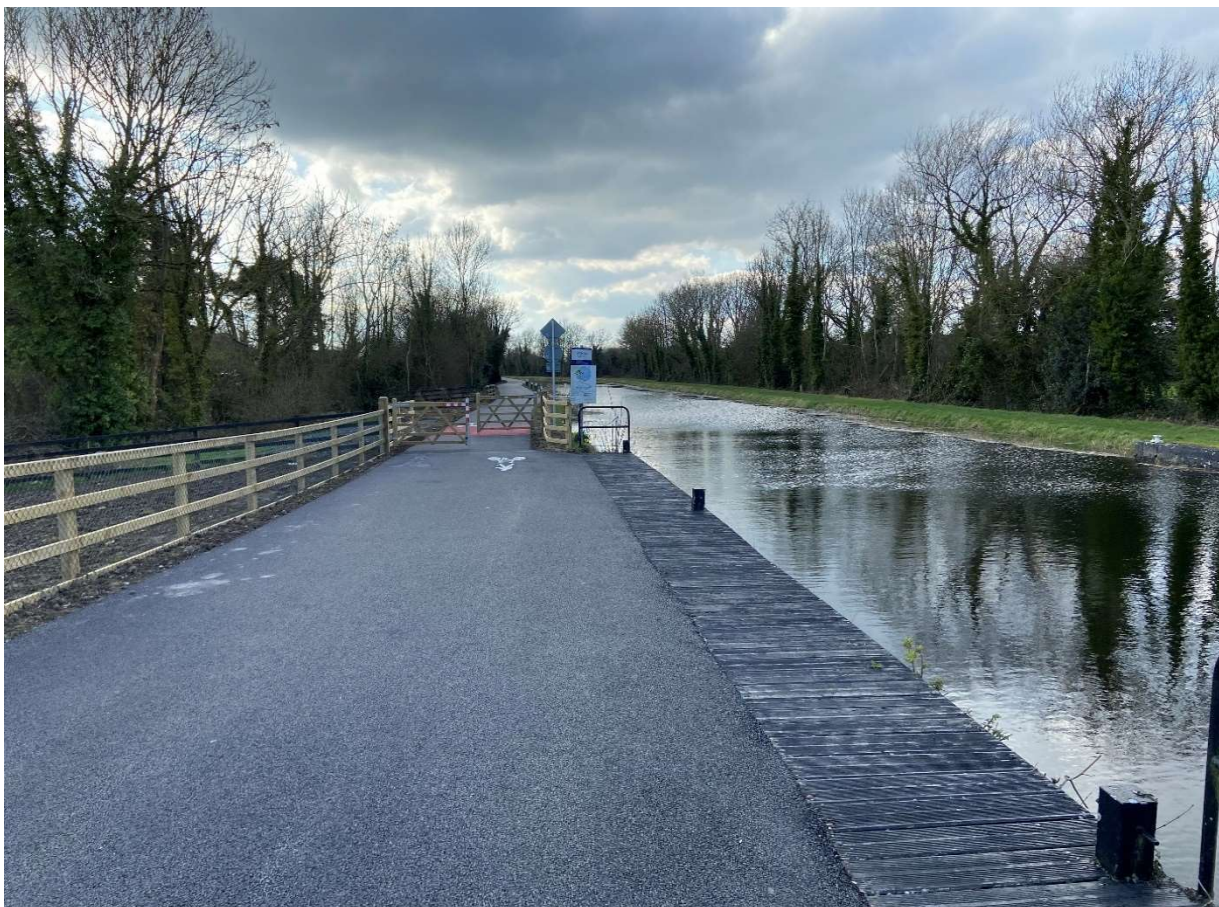
Our 2023 Roads program included for the following works;

- Annual 2023 Roads Program
- N62 Road Strengthening Project
- Grand Canal Greenway Construction
- Edenderry Inner Relief Road Stage 2
- Birr North Distributor Road
- Active Travel Schemes
- Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure
- Introduction of Zero Emission vehicles into our corporate fleet
- Introduction of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)
- Birr South Eastern Distributor Roads
- PLEEP-Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project

TII Grand Canal Greenway:

As part of our 2023 TII allocation Offaly County Council's Road and Transportation team were allocated approximately €3,880,000 to deliver the final 16km of the Grand Canal Greenway. The remaining works were separated into 4 specific capital contracts all of which were procured and a contractor appointed in 2023. The works

in there entirety will be completed in Q1 of 2024. As part of our works to provide connectivity to the Grand Canal Greenway we will commence the delivery of strategic links from specific towns and villages with the first scheme to be delivered in 2024.



TII Protection and Renewal:

As part of the protection and renewal program Offaly County Council were approved for additional funding for the delivery of 2 Emergency schemes on the N80 at Ballinarash and the N52 at Blueball. These schemes were in addition to the approximately 8.5km of pavement renewal works on the N62 delivered in Q2/Q3 of 2023.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Regional Strategy:

Offaly County Council's Road and Transportation Dept. acting on behalf of the lead authority which is Offaly County Council in collaboration with our colleagues in Westmeath, Longford, Laois and Roscommon commenced the procurement process for specialist Technical Consultancy services for the formation of a Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy in 2023. The strategy will produce an implementation plan for the region. This implementation plan will be used to apply for funding and ensure regional delivery of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure which in turn will ensure any synergies that can be delivered with regards to positioning of infrastructure and delivery of this new service can be identified at the inception phase of the project.

Corporate Fleet migration towards Zero Emission and Low Emission fuels:

Offaly County Council's Road and Transportation Department commenced the migration of the Corporate Fleet toward both Zero Emission and Low Emission fuels in 2023. Our fleet now includes 5 electric vehicles which have replaced 5 diesel engine vehicles. We have also introduced Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as replacement for diesel across a number of vehicles as a trial in 2023. The success of this trial underpins our commitment to introduced HVO as our primary fuel in 2024 which will provide a 90% reduction in our carbon footprint.



The Machinery Yard purchased two velocity road patching units in 2023, with grant assistance from the Department of Transport. The velocity patching unit provides for significantly higher quality, safer operation and cost saving for pothole repairs than conventional units. In particular, they reduce our carbon footprint through reducing binder content of repairs and reducing the necessity to repeat repairs. With these savings we will reach more roads in a timely fashion.



Birr North Distributor Road:

Design works for the proposed new Birr North Distributor Road have progressed in 2023 with a detailed design now substantially completed and tender documentation due to be issued for approval to the Department of Transport. The Roads and Transportation Department aim to commence construction on this scheme in late Q2, early Q3 of 2024 subject to Department of Transport approval and funding.

Edenderry Inner Relief Road:

Works commenced in Q3 on Stage 2 of the Edenderry Inner Relief Road with a completion date projected for Q2 2024. Once completed this scheme will provide a strategically important piece of infrastructure that will assist in promoting our Town Centre Ethos and will help maximise the benefits of our ACTIVE Travel Investment programs going forward.



Active Travel Schemes:

Offaly County Council was allocated € 3,009,382 under the National Transport Authority (NTA) Active Travel Investment Programme for 2023 for 21 No. Active Travel projects.

Offaly County Council spent € 3,314,689.08 on various Active Travel projects within Offaly during 2023; an increase of € 305,307.08 or approximately 10% above the original NTA allocation to Offaly County Council for 2023.

This brought the total spend by Offaly County Council upon Active Travel projects within Offaly, under the NTA Active Travel Investment Programme since 2021, to approximately € 5,799,182.51.

A number of schemes / projects, as listed below, were completed in Offaly within the past year:

- OY/21/0004 Clara – Incl. Heather Grove, Westwood Grove & Badgers Lane
- OY/21/0008 Countywide Pedestrian Crossings – Outside Rath National School and also within Geashill, Banagher, Edenderry & Tullamore
- OY/22/0001 Edenderry R402-1 Junction Upgrade
- OY/22/0002 Tullamore – Collins Lane – Advance Scheme
- OY/22/0005 Mucklagh Brocca Road Junction & Footpaths
- OY/22/0007 Ballycumber Active Travel Elements

The works delivered under these schemes included the provision of new or upgrades to footpaths, cycle tracks, pedestrian crossings and junction tightening improvements / upgrades. These schemes provided safe pedestrian links for all ages, including for children under safe routes to school (i.e. Rath & Banagher – Cuba Avenue) in numerous locations throughout Offaly.

These links help to promote sustainable communities, increase permeability and healthier living by facilitating access to local amenities in our towns and villages by walking and cycling and encourage modal shift, away from use of the car.

The benefits delivered under these and future Offaly County Council Active Travel schemes fall in line with the commitments and objectives under various local, regional and government policies relating to goals under Climate Action, Sustainable Mobility, as well as objectives under Offaly County Council's County Development Plan.



Heather Grove Clara.



Westwood Grove Clara.



Ballycumber.

Climate Change and Climate Adaptation works:

Offaly County Council's Road and Transportation Department works programs for 2023 were underpinned by assisting our organisations approach towards meeting our Climate Action commitments and showing leadership in this space. An example of works undertaken in 2023 are as follows;

- Active Travel Schemes
- Decarbonisation of the Corporate Fleet via the introduction of HVO
- Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure
- PLEEP-Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project
- Deployment of 2 new Velocity Patchers
- Completion of the Grand Canal Greenway
- Deployment of 5 new Zero Emission Vehicles

Road Safety 2023

As part of the 2023 Roads program Offaly County Council in collaboration with all our stakeholder partners have completed our counties Road Safety Plan. The works relating to it are ongoing.